

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05369 241043Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9066
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 5369

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN
SUBJECT: UNGA BILATERAL WITH KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: STATE 224369

1. MIDDLE EAST PEACE. I PRESUME THAT YOUR BILATERAL WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SABAH AL-AHMAD WILL BE DEVOTED TO A BRIEFING OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF US EFFORTS TO PROMOTE PROGRESS TOWARD CONVENING THE GENEVA MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE. IN THIS CONTEXT I SUGGEST THAT, IF THERE IS ANY WAY IN WHICH YOU THINK KUWAIT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN RESOLVING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, YOU SEEK SUCH SUPPORT FROM SABAH AL-AHMAD. KUWAIT'S RELATIONS WITH THE PLO HAVE BEEN VERY CLOSE AND THE GOK HAS BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE OF PLO AIMS AND PROGRAMS, BOTH IN FINANCIAL TERMS AND OTHERWISE. SABAH AL-AHMAD HAS CONSISTENTLY ENCOURAGED THE PLO TO ADOPT A MODERATE COURSE OF ACTION AND, I FEEL CERTAIN, WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPORT ANY REASONABLE APPROACH ON OUR PART WHICH WOULD REQUIRE PLO MODERATION.

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2. LEBANON. IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON IT IS LIKELY THAT THIS SUBJECT MAY ALSO ARISE DURING YOUR CONVERSATION. GIVEN KUWAIT INTEREST IN LEBANON AND ACTIVITY OF ITS AMBASSADOR ON THE LEBANESE SCENE, YOU MAY WISH TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO MODERATE THIS SITUATION AND ENCOURAGE THE GOK TO PROVIDE AS MUCH ASSISTANCE AS POSSIBLE TO HELP WITH THE REHABIL-

IATION OF LEBANON'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY.

3. AMINOIL NATIONALIZATION. WHILE SABAH AL-AHMAD
GENERALLY ESCHEWS ANY INVOLVEMENT IN ECONOMIC MATTERS,
I NEVERTHELESS RECOMMEND THAT YOU TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
REFER TO THE RECENT NATIONALIZATION OF AMINOIL AND TO
SUPPORT THE EFFORT (CURRENTLY LOW-KEY) I HAVE BEEN MAKING
HERE TO ENSURE THAT THE GOK PROVIDES FAIR AND JUST
COMPENSATION FOR THIS EXPROPRIATION ACT. I WOULD HATE TO
SEE THIS MATTER DEVELOP INTO A REAL IRRITANT IN OUR
RELATIONS WITH KUWAIT. THIS COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN
BECAUSE OF THE DIVERGENCE BETWEEN OUR VIEW AND THAT OF
THE KUWAITIS ON WHAT IS FAIR AND JUST COMPENSATION, PART-
ICULARLY AS IT MAY RELATE TO THEIR ALLEGED RETROACTIVE
CLAIMS ON PAST PROFITS WHICH HAVE NO LEGAL BASIS IN THEIR
PREVIOUS CONTRACTS WITH AMINOIL. I BELIEVE THERE IS SUFFIC-
IENT MATERIAL ALREADY AVAILABLE IN THE DEPARTMENT
FOR USE IN BRIEFING YOU ON THIS SUBJECT, ALTHOUGH I FORESEE
THAT THERE WILL BE NO NEED TO GO INTO ANY FURTHER DETAIL
OTHER THAN STRESSING THAT JUST COMPENSATION SHOULD BE
RELATED TO THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF AMINOIL'S OPERATION
AND ITS ASSETS.
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